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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1

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INFORMATION REPORT

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INTRODUCTION: To date, available monitored foreign radio reaction to the President's message has been relatively sparsable and brief. Most comment received, however, accords it a position of epochal significance in the world today; and most available comment is also favorable--much of it extremely so.

HOSTILE COMMENT: As for Moscow, the Soviet Home Service has so far reported only a brief, comparatively factual summary of the message; and TASS, in identical dispatches to North America and to Europe, quotes reactions by Representative Short, Henry Wallace, Senator Taylor, Representative Marcantonio and Isserman to show that "Truman's last speech to Congress has evoked anxiety even among many American conservative leaders" and "has met with sharp condemnation from progressive circles."

Other hostile comment comes from the Communist Party station at Caracas, Venezuela, in reports of Communist press reaction in Italy and France, and in the report of statements by a Japanese Communist leader. All of them attack the President's charges against the Soviet Union. Nozaka, the Japanese Communist leader, finds them "incomprehensible" especially in view of the USSR's reduced military budget. Caracas attributes Truman's strategy to the approaching elections and Truman's desire "to be sure of monopolistic Wall Street support"--the only monitored attempt to attribute any partisan political significance to his message. The French Communist HUMANITE,

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rejecting Truman's "blackmail," charges that he is playing the same game as Hitler and Mussolini who tried to keep the world in a state of breathless suspense from one speech to another. And the leftist REPUBBLICA D'ITALIA, which Moscow is fond of quoting, declares that "Truman announces a policy of war," and at the same time the journal stresses that the USSR is beginning to demobilize. To date, the only monitored reaction from radios in the Soviet sphere of influence includes a brief Prague report of the message, and a Soviet-controlled Berlin item that "Truman calls for reintroduction of conscription. Wallace describes this demand as 'shameful.'"

FAVORABLE REACTIONS: Favorable comment, especially in broadcasts of press reaction, has been received to date from England, Sweden, France, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Spain, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand. Practically all of it highlights the President's charges against the USSR and emphasizes the President's firm intention to "stand behind" the western democracies. Although there are occasional extreme statements, such as IL MESSAGGERO's claim that "one more step and it will be war," a greater portion of comment takes a less explosive attitude, explaining instead that the message represents an important step toward peace and that it does not close the door completely to the USSR. In the words of the MANCHESTER GUARDIAN, "the way is open for Russia to return to the spirit of the U.N. from which she has departed."

To date, the only monitored commentary broadcast by a foreign radio on its own responsibility comes from Stockholm which decries the "state of war psychosis" prevalent throughout the world, but which at the same time feels that Truman's message "should not... increase the fear of an immediate outbreak of war. ... What he said was a clear warning to Moscow not to try and stretch beyond (the Soviet sphere of influence). It would be very remarkable indeed if the Kremlin did not understand this serious and deep meaning of the President's speech."

To date, no monitored foreign radio broadcast has as yet voiced any speculation about the outcome of Truman's proposals in Congress.

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